IND.

MY OWN ROMANCE

61 JAN.

My own ROMANCE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

10¢

WOULD IT BRING LOVE...OR HEARTBREAK?

"THE BEAUTY OF BEVERLY STORM!"

THERE HAD TO BE FIREWORKS WHEN "THE ARTIST AND THE LADY MET!"

ALL NEW TALES

FORGIVE HER FOR LETTING HER HEART RULE HER HEAD, AFTER ALL, SHE'S ONLY "SWEET SEVENTEEN!"

AMERICA'S GREATEST RING BARGAINS

Ladies' & Mens'

For Engagement, Wedding, Friendship, Etc.

from the House of Rings!

ONLY $1.74 EACH

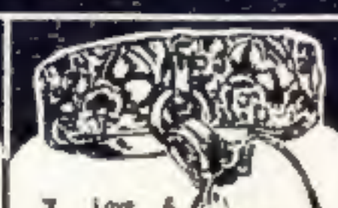
Here they are! America's best-loved rings for ladies and men, offered by one of the most reliable ring houses for only $1.74 each. Many feature beautifully designed mountings of solid STERLING SILVER decorated with costly looking simulated diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires, etc. These rings look like many dollars more. Send cash or money order with ring style number, finger size (strip of paper or string), we pay all postal charges. If you prefer, pay postman $1.74 C.O.D., in which case you pay postage.

HAREM CO., 30 Church St., Dept. T-149 New York 7, N. Y.

153. Ladies' solitaire ring. Large brilliant simulated diamond in center, 6 smaller stones. Yellow or white gold color effect.

128. Men's birthstone ring. Large beautiful stone in red ruby, green emerald, blue sapphire, etc.

105. Ladies' wedding ring. 6, 8 or 10 brilliant, simulated diamonds. Or fancy embossed with no stones. 1/30 14Kt gold or Sterling Silver.



7. Love & Friendship ring. Solid Sterling Silver with 2 hearts linked. Forget-me-not design.

169. Ladies' engagement ring. Large, simulated diamond, 2 smaller stones. 1/20 14Kt gold filled or 1/30 14Kt RGP or Sterling Silver

156. Men's massive "Good Luck Horseshoe" ring. 4-leaf clover. White or yellow gold color effect.

146. Ladies' dinner ring. Gorgeous, large simulated diamond and many smaller white or colored stones.

114. Very Special! Ladies' solitaire ring with genuine Zircon, the nearest thing to a genuine diamond. With 2 side stones. 1/30 14Kt yellow gold mounting.

109. Men's signet ring with sparkling, simulated diamond. Heavy yellow gold color effect mounting.

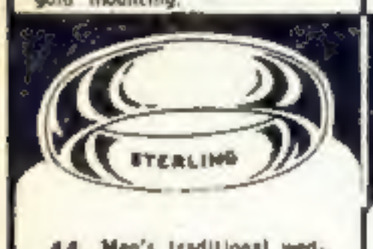
112. Men's exquisite Masonic ring. Yellow gold color effect. Must be seen to be appreciated.

158. Men's Indian Chief's head ring. Yellow or white gold color effect. Also in boys' sizes. Ring comes also in imported, hand carved Cocora Nut.

118. Ladies' Friendship forget-me-not and modern style wedding ring. 1/20 14Kt yellow gold filled or 12Kt gold plate or heavy Sterling Silver. Assorted designs.

10. Boys' and girls' signet ring. Yellow or white gold color effect or Sterling Silver.

157. Men's beautiful, heavy Cameo ring. Large 2-toned Cameo. Classic knight-in-armor and girl design. Yellow or white gold color effect.



44. Men's traditional wedding ring. Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

162. Men's massive lion head ring. Large, simulated diamond in mouth, 2 smaller red stones in eyes.

115. Ladies' engagement ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond and many smaller stones. Unusual step design. Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

116. Ladies' exquisite wedding ring. 9 or 7 matching, simulated diamonds all around. Fishtail setting. Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

163. Men's ring. Large, sparkling, simulated red ruby. 1/20 12Kt yellow gold filled or 1/30 14Kt RGP. Also white gold color effect.

171. Ladies' engagement ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond with 4 or 6 smaller side stones. 1/30 14Kt RGP.

170. Ladies' graceful wedding ring. 7 brilliant, good-sized, matching, simulated diamonds. 1/30 14Kt RGP.

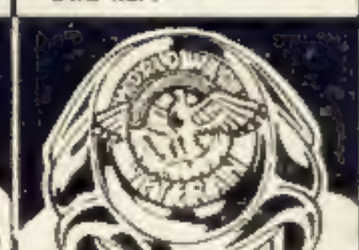
127. Men's ring. Beautiful, large, about 4Kt-size, simulated red ruby stone. Stone comes in all colors. White gold color effect.

141. Ladies' cluster dinner ring. A beautiful gem. 7 or 12 brilliant, simulated diamonds. Center stone also in simulated red ruby. Pierced mounting. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect.

104. Ladies' gorgeous dinner ring. Large, brilliant simulated center diamond, 6 medium-size and many smaller stones. Very rare with so many stones. Ring also comes in varying designs.

168. Ladies' exquisite engagement ring. 2 large, brilliant, simulated center diamonds, 2 or 4 matching side stones. Sterling Silver or 1/30 14Kt gold RGP.

42. Unique hand-clasp love & friendship ring. Comes apart to form 2 rings. Sterling Silver.



164. Men's massive veteran's discharge ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow gold color effect.

73. Ladies' beautiful 2-toned Cameo ring. Yellow gold color effect.

160. Men's large square cut, simulated garnet ring. Yellow or white gold color effect.

152. Sweetheart ring. 2 simulated rubies on entwined hearts. Yellow gold color effect.

106. Men's solitaire ring. Large, brilliant 2Kt-size simulated diamond. Fine heavy mounting.

161. Ladies' dinner ring. Gorgeous peacock design, 15 sparkling, simulated rubies, sapphires, emeralds. White or yellow gold color effect.

149. Ladies' dinner ring. Unusual design. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, about 10 smaller stones. White gold color effect or Sterling Silver. Ring also comes in oval or square shape design.

167. Ladies' exquisite cluster dinner ring. 3 large, simulated diamonds and many smaller stones. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect.

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10-DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

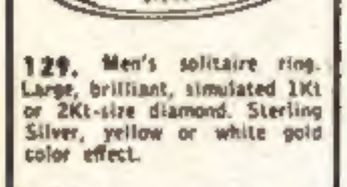
129. Men's solitaire ring. Large, brilliant, simulated 1Kt or 2Kt-size diamond. Sterling Silver, yellow or white gold color effect.

101. Dainty, exquisitely designed baby ring. 10Kt solid yellow gold mounting. Makes priceless memento.

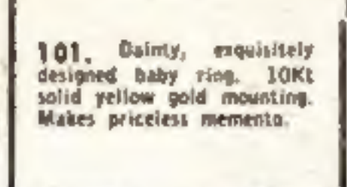
121. Men's heavy Sterling Silver square or round shaped signet ring. Suitable for engraving initials. Also in yellow or white gold color effect.

154. Ladies' birthstone ring. Sparkling, square-cut, 1Kt to 4Kt-size simulated green emerald. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect. Stone comes in all colors.

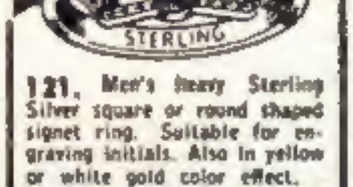
151. Men's ring. Simulated red ruby in center, 2 simulated white diamonds. Yellow or white gold color effect. Also with 3 large white stones.



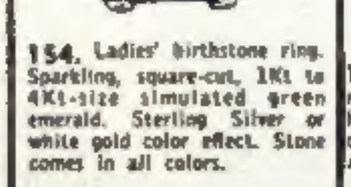
142. Men's U.S. Army insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.



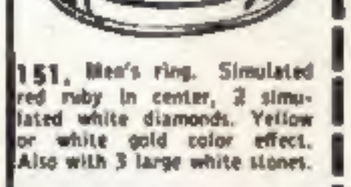
145. Men's U.S. Navy insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.



144. Men's U.S. Marine Corps insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.



143. Men's U.S. Air Force insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.



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Sweet Seventeen!

IT'S NO USE! NO ONE HAS ASKED ME TO DANCE, AND NO ONE WILL!

THE DANCES AT OUR HIGH SCHOOL WERE HAPPY, FUN-FILLED OCCASIONS, THAT IS FOR EVERYONE BUT ME! WITH MY RATHER PLAIN, UNATTRACTIVE CLOTHES, NO ONE EVER TOOK NOTICE OF ME! AND SO THERE I WAS ON THE SIDELINES, ALONE, UNWANTED AND UNHAPPY...

I WAS A FOOL TO COME IN THE FIRST PLACE! I KNEW IT WOULD END LIKE THIS... AND YET I *DID* HOPE IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT!

OUTSIDE WAS THE LONELY NIGHT AND THE STAR-FILLED SKY, AND IN MY LONELINESS I MADE A SOLEMN PLEDGE...

I'M GOING TO QUIT SCHOOL, THAT'S WHAT! I'LL GET A JOB AND I'LL BE ABLE TO BUY LOTS OF PRETTY CLOTHES! THEN I WON'T BE UNNOTICED, AND I'LL NEVER BE LONELY AGAIN!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, I TOLD MY MOTHER OF MY PLANS..

YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS, DEBBIE! YOU DON'T REALLY MEAN YOU'D LEAVE SCHOOL, WITH ONLY A YEAR TO GO!

BUT I *DO* MEAN IT, MOTHER...

I'M NOT HAPPY THERE... I DON'T FIT IN! IT ISN'T THAT I ENVY THE OTHER GIRLS.. BUT BOYS *DO* NOTICE ATTRACTIVE GIRLS, AND PRETTY CLOTHES!

SO *THAT'S* IT!

YES, DEAR, PRETTY CLOTHES *ARE* IMPORTANT TO A YOUNG GIRL, BUT YOU WOULDN'T WANT US TO SPEND MORE THAN WHAT WE CAN REALLY AFFORD?

NO, MOTHER, OF COURSE NOT!

I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT, AND THERE IS SOMETHING EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN CLOTHES... AND THAT'S AN. EDUCATION! MAYBE YOU DON'T AGREE, BUT SOMEDAY YOU WILL!

I RESPECTED MY MOTHER'S ADVICE AND PROMISED TO CONTINUE, BUT EACH MORNING I FACED THE PROSPECT OF ANOTHER DAY AT SCHOOL WITH GROWING RELUCTANCE...

SAY, DEBBIE, DID YOU HEAR THE EXCITING NEWS?

NO, RUTH! WHAT IS IT?

WE'RE GETTING A NEW BOY IN OUR HOME CLASS! HIS NAME IS GARY PALMER, AND THEY SAY HE'S VERY HANDSOME! ISN'T IT EXCITING?

NOT VERY!

BUT I WAS EXCITED, JUST AS THE OTHERS.. ONLY I WOULDN'T LET ON...

HE *IS* HANDSOME, AND HE SEEMS TO BE VERY PLEASANT, TOO!

HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I EXIST, AND STILL, I CAN HARDLY BLAME HIM! I'M NOT REALLY WORTH NOTICING!

MY ONLY COMFORT IS THAT I'VE ONLY A YEAR TO GO! THEN I'LL BE THRU WITH SCHOOL, AND I WON'T BE THE LEAST BIT SORRY!

THAT NIGHT I WAS IN A PIT OF DESPAIR! I WAS TRULY AT MY LOWEST EBB, WHEN SUDDENLY,

YES, SHE'S HERE! WON'T YOU COME IN?

YES, THANK YOU!

WHEN I HEARD THE VOICE, I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EARS, BUT A MOMENT LATER, I COULD SCARCELY BELIEVE MY EYES...

IT'S *YOU*! I MEAN, GARY PALMER, THE NEW BOY!

THAT'S RIGHT! MY FAMILY TOOK THE HOUSE UP THE STREET, AND WITH YOU LIVING RIGHT NEARBY, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT I SEE YOU...

IT WAS OUR HOME TEACHER'S SUGGESTION! I COULD USE SOME HELP IN CATCHING UP WITH THE WORK THE CLASS HAS ALREADY COVERED! THAT IS, IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU!

I REALLY DON'T MIND AT ALL!

ACTUALLY, IT WAS THE MOST WONDERFUL THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME! EVERY DAY, GARY AND I WOULD DO OUR HOMEWORK TOGETHER, AND SUDDENLY A MONTH HAD GONE BY...

YOU'RE A GREAT TEACHER, DEBBIE! I'M PRACTICALLY CAUGHT UP!

THANKS, BUT A TEACHER IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE PUPIL!

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE I WANTED TO ASK YOU... THERE'S THE DANCE THIS SATURDAY! WILL YOU COME WITH ME?

Y...YOU REALLY MEAN THAT?

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY OR THINK! NOTHING LIKE THIS HAD EVER HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE! COULD IT BE HE WAS GRATEFUL...THAT HE ASKED OUT OF A SENSE OF OBLIGATION...

WELL, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?

WELL, I... THAT IS...

OF COURSE I'LL GO, GARY! I'D BE HAPPY TO!

GREAT! THEN IT'S A DATE!

I WAS THRILLED AND FRIGHTENED ALL AT THE SAME TIME, BUT MOTHER CAME TO THE RESCUE! I HAD ALWAYS TOYED WITH FASHION SKETCHING, AND WITH MOTHER'S HELP, MY FIRST CREATION WAS MADE...

I HOPE HE DOESN'T THINK IT'S HOMEMADE!

STOP WORRYING!

BUT WHEN GARY CALLED FOR ME ON SATURDAY NIGHT, ONE LOOK TOLD THE STORY...

ANYTHING THE MATTER, GARY?

FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, EVERYTHING IS *PERFECT*!

AND IT WAS PERFECT! THAT NIGHT I KNEW EXACTLY HOW CINDERELLA MUST HAVE FELT THE NIGHT OF THE BALL ...

YOU'RE THE PRETTIEST GIRL ON THE FLOOR, DEBBIE. AND THE NICEST, TOO!

THANK YOU, GARY!

SO THE COMPLIMENTS KEPT COMING MY WAY, THICK AND FAST...

THAT'S THE KEENEST DRESS I'VE EVER SEEN, DEBBIE! YOU MUST TELL ME WHERE YOU BOUGHT IT!

BUT I *DIDN'T* BUY IT! I *DESIGNED* IT MYSELF!

AND WHEN GARY TOOK ME HOME...

YOU'RE JUST PERFECT, DEBBIE! YOU'RE PRETTY, SMART AND FUN TO BE WITH! I GUESS A NEW GUY LIKE ME DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE!

WELL, HE JUST MIGHT...

THEN HOW ABOUT THE DANCE NEXT WEEK, AND THE ONE AFTER THAT AND THE BASKETBALL GAME, TOO?

I'D LOVE TO... AND THE BASKETBALL GAME, TOO!...

AS THOUGH IT WERE MAGIC, THE LONELINESS I HAD ALWAYS KNOWN VANISHED! CALL IT WHAT YOU LIKE, FAITH, PATIENCE, OR THE VERY MYSTERY OF LIFE ITSELF, BUT THINGS *DID* CHANGE FOR THE BETTER...

GARY LOVES DEBBIE

SO IF YOU'RE HAVING AN EXPERIENCE LIKE *MINE, DON'T* GIVE UP HOPE! WHAT HAPPENED TO *ME*, CAN ALSO HAPPEN TO YOU!

The End

Misunderstanding

MARION looked out across the bay toward its southern point, where a rocky spear of land cut knifelike into the ocean. It was a cloudless day, and the water sparkled with glints of sunlight. Here and there a sailboat scudded before the wind, while the distant roaring motor-boats skimmed across the water like beetles. But none of these was the one she was waiting for. She had been sitting on the wharf since early afternoon, and now her legs ached from their cramped position. But stubborn and resolute she stayed on, the emptiness within her echoing the clear, lonely cry of a seagull . . .

Only yesterday she had waited for Roger as usual, in the secret cove she had found on the northern shore, far past the fishing cottages and her home. Waiting, she had still been happy — believing firmly in his love, remembering and treasuring each detail of his suntanned face, hearing his sudden, quick laugh . . . but now the memory tore cruelly at her heart.

It was hard to recall those days before she knew Roger Graham, yet it had been only two months since he had sailed his cabin cruiser into the bay and changed her world! On that morning she had been digging clams in the cove, with her old dungarees rolled up above her knees. Then tired, she had stretched out on the warm gritty sand to relax, when suddenly Roger appeared! She first heard his laugh, and startled by it, she sat up and saw him waving from his boat. Her heart beat quickly as if somehow life had been spent waiting for this moment to come.

Marion smiled, wistfully. Those first weeks had passed swiftly. He stayed at one of the small resort hotels on the opposite side of the bay, but each morning his boat would glide out across the inlet and he would join her at the cove where they had met . . . then, together they would sail out to the ocean. It was hard to believe now that she could have known such happiness . . . that she could have been such a fool!

There had been no reason for doubting him until yesterday. For hours she had waited on the beach, until panic had mounted within her. Never before had he failed to come. Something had happened to detain him, she thought . . . perhaps some danger . . . and so, terribly worried, she ran the mile around the shore to his hotel. Breathless and trembling, she found Mr. Peters, the manager.

"Yep, that's right," Peters had said. "Mr. Graham left early this morning after getting a telegram from his WIFE!"

"His wife?" Marion gasped, stunned and bewildered.

"That's right," Peters had insisted, studying her face. "The telegram said, Mrs. Celia Graham, and Mr. Graham told me he was going to fetch the family back tomorrow afternoon."

He had spoken emphatically, but when Marion didn't speak, he frowned. "Yep, a real quiet fella," he had concluded.

"It can't be true," Marion told herself, rushing away from the hotel. Half of her was consumed in disbelief, rebelling against the words that had destroyed her happiness so abruptly. The other half was tightly knotted into a sensation, so unbearable, that she could scarcely breathe.

She had walked along the streets of the resort, her eyes staring straight ahead, until once again she was alone, her feet rushing along the beach as restlessly as the waves. She had climbed the cliffs behind her village to avoid meeting anyone she knew. Here the path led on, until exhausted, she had reached the quiet arc of the cove.

The wind greeted her with a misty tang of ocean spray. She seemed to hear Roger calling out her name, the slap of the waves echoing it over and over again. For a moment, she had stood expectantly, believing that any second he would come and take her in his arms, and declare his love . . . and she'd know she'd only experienced a bad dream. But he hadn't come, and slowly she felt the tears

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

YOGI BERRA HOMERS IN THE 9th- WINS BIG GAME!

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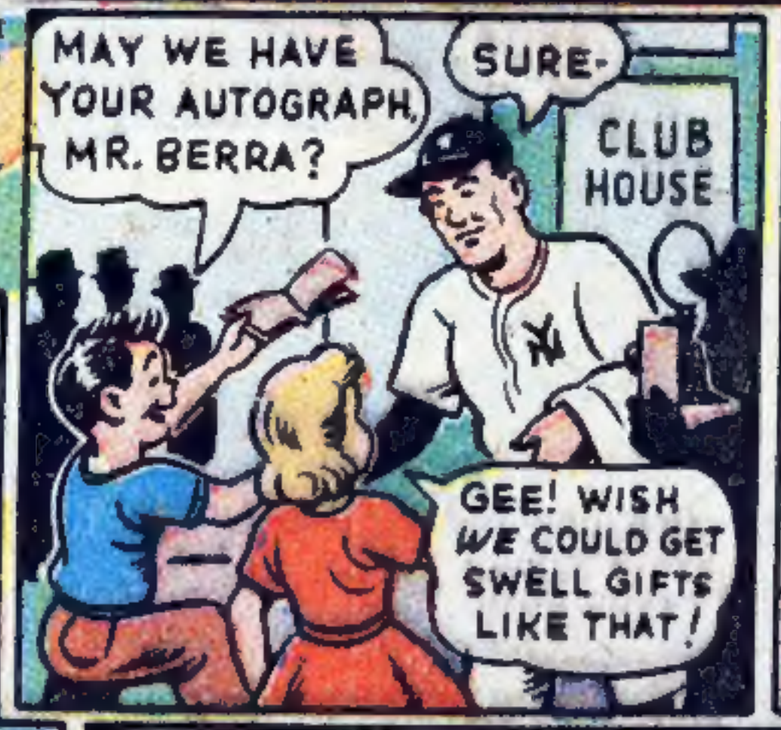
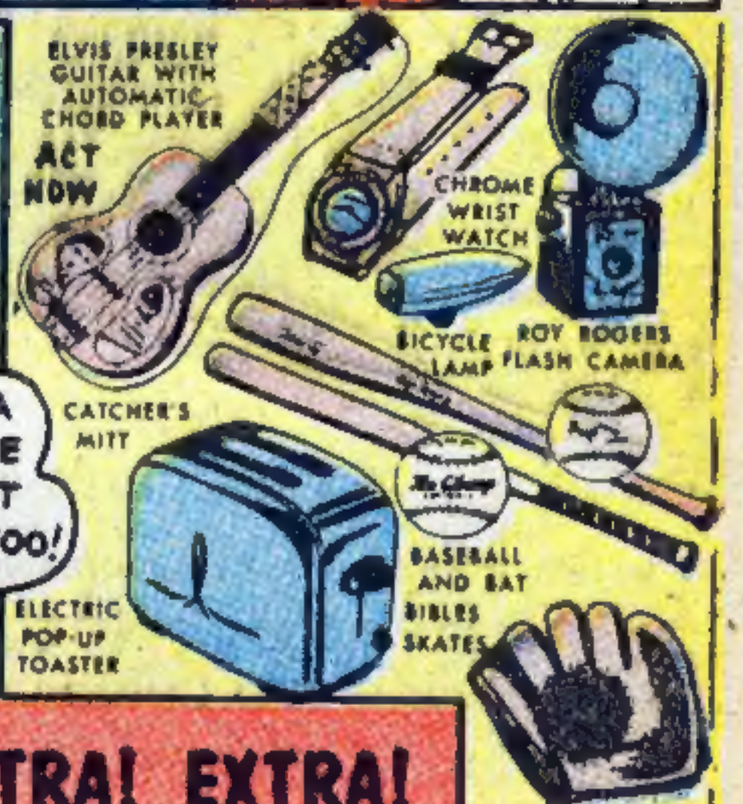
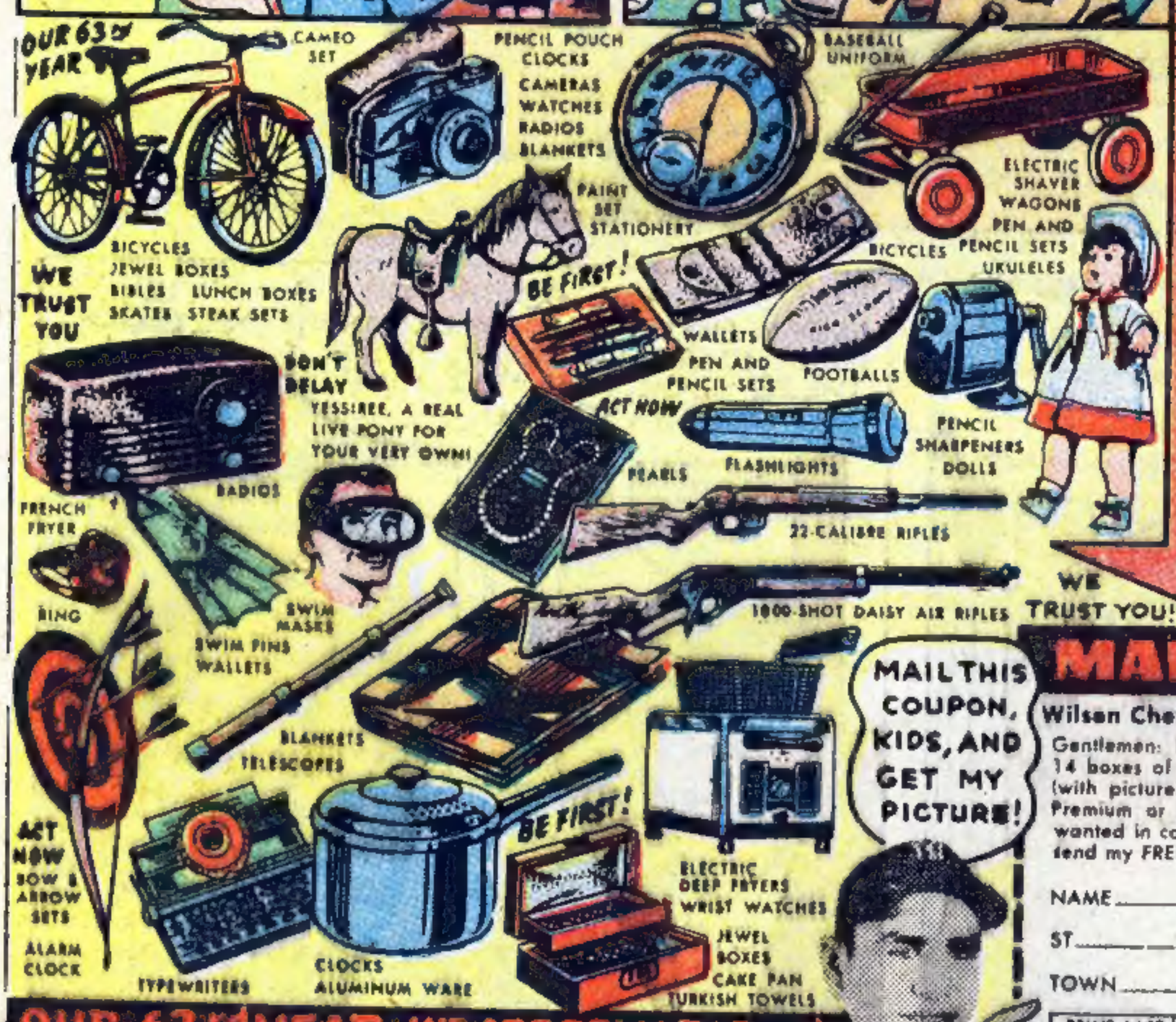
Yogi Berra



YOGI WAS RIGHT! LOOK AT ALL THE WONDERFUL PREMIUMS WE EARNED SELLING WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE!
WOW! I'M GONNA SELL SOME OF THAT SALVE TOO!





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WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 148-15 Tyrone, Pa.

the ARTIST and the Lady

I KNOW I'VE BEEN IN TWICE THIS WEEK, BUT WOULD YOU TAKE THESE NEW SAMPLES IN TO MR. BLOCK?

OF COURSE, MR. PARKER—I'D BE GLAD TO!

AS RECEPTIONIST FOR A LARGE ART AGENCY, I MET MANY ASPIRING YOUNG ARTISTS, BUT NONE WERE LIKE HANDSOME BILL PARKER! YET, DESPITE HIS GREAT CHARM, I ALSO SENSED A NOTE OF DANGER, BUT THERE WAS NO FIGHTING IT... I WAS DRAWN TO THE MAN, AS IRRESISTIBLY AS A MOTH IS DRAWN TOWARD A FLAME...

O-Ki

by Scott Parker

ARTHUR BLOCK WAS THE ART DIRECTOR, AND AS HE STUDIED THE DRAWINGS, I FERVENTLY HOPED HE WOULD FIND THEM ACCEPTABLE...

THESE SHOW PROMISE, BUT I LIKE A MORE ANIMATED STYLE... SOMETHING WITH MORE SNAP!

THEN YOU'RE NOT REALLY INTERESTED...?

SUPER

YOU CAN'T FEEL SORRY FOR EVERY ARTIST WHO WALKS IN HERE, GLORIA! ANYWAY, BRING THESE BACK, AND TELL HIM TO KEEP IN TOUCH!

YES, MR. BLOCK... I WILL!

IT WAS ALWAYS HARD TO TURN DOWN AN ARTIST'S WORK, BUT IN BILL'S CASE IT WAS DOUBLY DIFFICULT...

BUT HE *DID* LIKE IT! HE SAID YOU SHOWED LOTS OF PROMISE!

I APPRECIATE YOUR SINCERITY, BUT THERE COMES A TIME WHEN PROMISES AREN'T QUITE ENOUGH!

HE TURNED TO GO, AND THEN THE WORDS JUST TUMBLED FROM MY LIPS...

PLEASE, DON'T FEEL TOO BADLY, AND IF I CAN HELP IN ANY WAY, PLEASE ASK...

YOU *CAN* HELP... BY HAVING LUNCH WITH ME! OR WILL I BE DISAPPOINTED TWICE THIS MORNING?

LUNCH! YES... I'D LOVE TO!

SO WE LUNCHED THAT AFTERNOON IN A SMALL RESTAURANT, WHILE BILL POURED OUT HIS HEART...

...THAT'S THE STORY, GLORIA! MY INTENTION WAS TO BE A SERIOUS PAINTER, BUT ARTISTS MUST LIVE TOO!

AND SO YOU'VE TURNED TO COMMERCIAL WORK, AND STILL YOU FIND THE GOING TOUGH!

BUT MAYBE I CAN *REALLY* HELP! I KNOW EXACTLY THE KIND OF ART WORK MR. BLOCK WANTS!

THUS OUR FRIENDSHIP BEGAN, AND DURING THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, I HELPED AS BEST I COULD...

THAT'S A LOT BETTER! JUST KEEP THE LINE LOOSE AND FLOWING!

I THINK YOU'VE GOT IT NOW, BILL! I'LL BRING THESE DRAWINGS TO MR. BLOCK TOMORROW!

EITHER WAY, GLORIA, ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION, YOU'VE BEEN WONDERFUL...

SUDDENLY HE DREW ME CLOSE AND THEN OUR LIPS MET! IT WAS OUR FIRST KISS...A MOMENT I WOULD NEVER FORGET...

AND THE FOLLOWING DAY, WHEN I PRESENTED BILL'S LATEST EFFORT...

THESE ARE WONDERFUL! JUST THE KIND OF STUFF I WANT! GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM, GLORIA!

YES, MR. BLOCK... RIGHT AWAY!

BILL BECAME A HUGE SUCCESS, AND AS THE MONTHS ROLLED BY, HIS WORK WAS IN CONSTANT DEMAND...

YOU ARE MY SUCCESS, DARLING! I OWE IT ALL TO *YOU!*

I DID NOTHING, BUT I ALWAYS HAD FAITH IN YOU!

THEN HIS EYES BECAME CLOUDED AND A GRIMNESS CREPT INTO HIS FACE...A LOOK I HAD SEEN ONCE OR TWICE BEFORE...A LOOK I LEARNED TO DREAD...

WHAT IS IT, BILL? IS ANYTHING THE MATTER? SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TELL ME?

IT'S NOTHING, GLORIA! I FEEL TIRED AT TIMES! A LITTLE TOO MUCH SUCCESS, I GUESS!

THAT WAS THE BEGINNING, THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE! A CHANGE HAD TAKEN PLACE IN BILL! HE BEGAN TO DRIFT AWAY, AND I FELT THAT BILL WAS TIRING OF ME, NOW THAT I HAD HELPED HIM ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS!

THERE WAS NO EXPLAINING IT, AND I MADE NO ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL MY CONFUSED STATE...THEN, ONE DAY...

I DON'T GET IT! THE GUY'S A HUGE SUCCESS AND THEN HE CHUCKS IT ALL! I CAN'T LOCATE HIM, GLORIA! HE MOVED OUT OF HIS OLD PLACE AND JUST DISAPPEARED!

I CAN'T LOCATE HIM EITHER! HE DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOOD-BYE!

DAY AFTER DAY, I PONDERED HIS STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE, BUT NO ANSWER WAS FORTHCOMING...

DID HE (SOB!) REALLY **USE** ME? BUT I **CAN'T** BELIEVE IT! HE NOT ONLY WALKED OUT ON **ME**, BUT ON THE SUCCESS HE WORKED SO HARD TO GET...

IN MY SPARE TIME, I WANDERED ABOUT THE CITY, IN A QUEST THAT SEEMED MORE HOPELESS WITH EACH PASSING DAY...

IT'S USELESS! I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN! I GUESS I **NEVER** REALLY MEANT ANYTHING TO HIM!

AND THEN MY EYE SUDDENLY SAW SOMETHING THAT WAS STRANGELY FAMILIAR, AND I CAME TO AN ABRUPT HALT...

THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT IT! I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE! **BILL** PAINTED THAT PICTURE!

I RUSHED INSIDE, MY HEART POUNDING WILDLY...

YES, THE ARTIST **DOES** HAPPEN TO BE A MISTER PARKER, AND I MIGHT ADD THAT HIS WORK IS GROWING IN DEMAND!

BUT HIS ADDRESS... WHERE CAN I LOCATE HIM?

WELL, I REALLY CAN'T SAY! HE KEEPS MOVING ABOUT, BUT HE **DOES** DROP IN FROM TIME TO TIME! HE COULD BE IN ANY DAY!

BUT I **MUST** LOCATE HIM... **NOW!**

THEN A FAMILIAR VOICE SPOKE OUT...

GLORIA!

AND WHEN I TURNED, THERE WAS BILL!

IT *IS* YOU, BILL!

LIKE THE MOTH AND THE FLAME, I FELT MYSELF SWEPT FORWARD, STRAIGHT INTO HIS ARMS...

I'VE SEARCHED SO LONG, DARLING! ***WHY*** DID YOU DO IT?

THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF REASONS, BUT I WAS ALL WRONG! I ***DO*** LOVE YOU, GLORIA, BUT I WAS CONFUSED AND AFRAID TOO...

ONCE I SUCCEEDED, I KNEW IT ***WASN'T*** WHAT I ***REALLY*** WANTED! I KNEW I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK TO SERIOUS PAINTING, BUT I WAS AFRAID ***YOU*** WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND... ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU DID SO MUCH FOR ME!

BUT I ***DO*** UNDERSTAND!

I LOVE YOU, DARLING, AND YOUR HAPPINESS COMES FIRST AND ALWAYS! AND I ***KNOW*** YOU'LL SUCCEED, IN WHATEVER YOU UNDERTAKE!

I WILL, WITH ***YOU*** BESIDE ME!

YES, I WAS CONFIDENT THAT BILL WOULD SUCCEED ...THAT ONE DAY HE WOULD BE A FAMOUS PAINTER MY HEART TOLD ME SO, AND I ALSO KNEW THAT WE WOULD NEVER PART AGAIN!

The End

MEDICAL RESEARCH DISCOVERS TREATMENT FOR PIMPLES

ACNE, TEEN-AGE PIMPLES, SURFACE SKIN BLEMISHES and IRRITATIONS!

DO YOU feel your skin is holding back your chances for popularity . . . for success? Are you *afraid* people whom you'd like to know will *reject* you? Thousands of people who felt the same as you—now have clear attractive complexions. They've regained their poise and confidence. You can benefit from their experience!

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH REVEALS NEGLECT CAUSE OF MANY SKIN TROUBLES

Skin Specialists and Medical statistics tell us that broken our skin usually occurs from adolescence and can continue on through adulthood. Adolescents often carry these scars throughout their life. Many never get over the "feeling of embarrassment" and are always conscious of their appearance and complexion. Persistent cases of "bad skin" sometimes continue on through adulthood. In this stage of life, the responsibilities of earning a living and meeting people are essential if you are to climb the ladder of success in your job. It is doubly important to give your skin problems *immediate care*. Physicians state that to neglect your skin may prolong your skin troubles and make it more difficult to clear up. And, there is no better time to get pimples under control than NOW!

DON'T LET UGLY PIMPLES BLEMISH YOUR PERSONALITY, RUIN YOUR CONFIDENCE OR SPOIL YOUR TALENTS!

Laboratory analysis using special microscopes gives us the scientific facts regarding those unsightly pimples. High-powered lenses show your skin consists of several outer layers. Projecting through this epidermis are hairs, the ducts of the sweat glands and the tiny tubes of the sebaceous glands which supply the skin with oil to keep it soft and pliable. Skin specialists will tell you that many skin eruptions can often be traced to an over-secretion, of oil from the sebaceous glands. As a result of this over-secretion, more oil than is normally required by the skin is deposited on the outside of the skin. Unless special care is taken, this excessive oil forms an oily coating which is a catch-all for all foreign matter in the air. When dust, dirt, lint, etc. become embedded into the tiny skin openings and block them up, they can cause the pores to become enlarged and therefore even more susceptible to additional dirt and dust. These enlarged, blocked up pores may form blackheads as soon as they become infected and bring you the worry, despair, embarrassment and humiliation of pimples, blackheads and other blemishes.

DON'T SPREAD INFECTION BY SQUEEZING PIMPLES AND BLACKHEADS

Clinical reports state that many people squeeze out pimples and blackheads with their fingers. This is unsanitary and may lead to the spread of the infection. This abuse may also inflame your skin and leave red welts and ugly looking blotches and bumps. As a result your face may be covered with pimples and blemishes. Soon you'll be sorry you ever squeezed or picked at your skin by using this unscientific method to get rid of skin eruptions.

AMAZING NEW MEDICAL FORMULA

Reported in Leading Medical Journal

MAKES EXCITING GOOD NEWS for all sufferers from PIMPLES

ACNE, TEEN-AGE PIMPLES, SURFACE SKIN BLEMISHES and IRRITATIONS!

Actual clinical tests conducted by leading doctors have proven that an amazing, new-type medication helps clear up acne blemishes while it covers and hides embarrassing pimples! In the many cases tested by the doctors there were a mixture of men, women and children. White and Negro. Some with recent pimple eruptions and others with acne troubles of many years. The results were:

100% SUCCESSFUL IN CLINICAL TESTS

*45% were COMPLETELY CLEARED!
38% were DECIDEDLY IMPROVED!
17% were IMPROVED!

NOW *THE SAME TYPE OF MEDICATION USED IN THESE CLINICAL TESTS IS AVAILABLE TO YOU!*

DOCTORS RECOMMEND THIS TREATMENT

Physicians report two important ways to control this condition: First, they prescribe clearing the pores of clogging matter; and second, inhibit the excessive oiliness of the skin.

To help overcome these two conditions, Scope Products' research make available two scientifically-tested formulas that contain clinically proven ingredients. The first formula contains special cleansing properties not found in ordinary cold creams or skin cleansers. Thoroughly, but gently, it removed all surface scales, dried sebaceous matter, dust, dirt and debris—leaving your skin wonderfully soft, smooth and receptive to proper treatment. The second formula acts to reduce the excessive oiliness produced by the overactive sebaceous glands.

DON'T LET UGLY BLACKHEADS BLEMISH YOUR PERSONALITY

If you want help in getting rid of those ugly blackheads, you need SCOPE'S Amazing DOUBLE ACTION Skin Formula See how fast and easy it aids in clearing the skin of those unsightly blackheads. It loosens those pore-clogging impurities and softens the hard deposits underneath and around the blackheads, making their removal simple and effective. Scope Medicated Cream, with its successfully tested ingredients, instantly and completely covers up all skin irritations, leaving your skin clearer, smoother, and more attractive looking

COVERS UP UNSIGHTLY BLEMISHES WHILE MEDICATION DOES ITS WORK

To remove the immediate embarrassment of skin blemishes, Scope Medicated Skin Formula helps conceal while it medicates! Unlike many other skin preparations, Scope Formula has a *pleasant fragrance!* Imagine! The moment you apply the Scope Treatment to your skin you can instantly face the immediate present with greater confidence in your appearance. At the same time, you are sure that the medication is acting to remove surface skin blemishes and helping to prevent new ones. This "cover-up" action gives you peace of mind. No longer need you suffer from the feeling of self-consciousness or inferiority. Make this your first step in the direction of a clear complexion and skin that's lovable to kiss and touch!

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK

We make this guaranteed offer because so many users of Scope Medicated Skin Formula have written us telling how it helped to clear up their complexion. We want you to try the Scope Double Treatment at *our risk*. Just a few minutes of your time each day can yield more gratifying results than you ever dreamed possible! If you are not delighted in every way by the improved condition and general appearance of your skin IN JUST 10 DAYS, simply return the unused portion and we will refund not just the price you paid — but DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK! You have everything to gain *and we take all the risk!*

NOW YOU CAN GET THE SCOPE 2-WAY "COVER-UP" ACTION AND MEDICATED SKIN TREATMENT *IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT DELAY*

Just send your name and address to SCOPE PRODUCTS CO., Dept. 15 - CC 1 Orchard Street. New York, N. Y. Be sure to print clearly. By return mail we will ship the Scope treatment to you in a plain package. When postman delivers the package, pay only $1.98 plus postage. Or send $2.00 now and we pay postage. No matter which way you order, you have a DOUBLE REFUND GUARANTEE. Don't delay, send for the Scope Medicated Skin treatment with its special "cover-up" action . . . today! Sorry no Canadian or foreign C.O.D.'S.

I'M ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SLOW TO LEARN LIFE'S LESSONS! WHEN I FINALLY LEARNED THAT I WAS BUILDING AN INSURMOUNTABLE WALL BETWEEN BRUCE AND MYSELF, IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE TO HEED HIS HEARTFELT PLEA ...

Trust Me, My Love!

OUR MEETING WAS RATHER UNUSUAL! I WAS FRANTIC OVER THE LOSS OF MY PURSE THAT DAY! MY HARD-EARNED WEEK'S SALARY WAS IN IT...

HELLO, MIRIAM! I'M SURE YOU'VE MISSED THIS LITTLE ITEM!

OH, MY PURSE! I'M SO GRATEFUL! B-BUT I'M NOT SURE I REMEMBER YOU! PLEASE COME IN!

WE'VE NEVER MET! HOWEVER, I LOOKED IN THE PURSE TO SEE WHOSE IT WAS! I SAW YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE... AND I KNEW WE WERE GOING TO BE GOOD FRIENDS, SO WE MAY AS WELL START WITH "MIRIAM AND BRUCE"!

I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER HE WAS JUST SOME FRESH FELLOW I OUGHT TO SEND ON HIS WAY, OR JUST A GOOD-LOOKING, GOOD-NATURED MAN! I OFFERED HIM A COLD DRINK...

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, MIRIAM! BELIEVE ME, I'M NOT USUALLY SO FORWARD! IT'S JUST THAT I'VE *FOUND* THE *RIGHT GIRL!*

ARE YOU SURE? YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT ME!

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT! AND THAT BEING THE CASE, I THINK IT ONLY FAIR THAT YOU HAVE DINNER WITH ME SO I CAN GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER!

BRUCE, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DATE!

NATURALLY, I LEARNED A GOOD DEAL ABOUT BRUCE DURING THE THREE HOURS WE SPENT DINING AND DANCING! I *WANTED* TO SEE HIM AGAIN! AND AFTER HE SAW ME HOME...

WELL, BRUCE, DO I *PASS* THE TEST?

HMMM... IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO TELL IN SO SHORT A TIME! IT'LL PROBABLY REQUIRE MONTHS! SHALL WE CONTINUE TOMORROW NIGHT? A MOVIE, PERHAPS, AFTER DINNER?

I FELL IN LOVE WITH BRUCE WITHIN A WEEK'S TIME! I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER GET AROUND TO PROPOSING! IT TOOK HIM A FULL TEN WEEKS..

DARLING, I HAVE A GOOD JOB, A GOOD DISPOSITION, AND I LOVE YOU! WILL YOU MARRY ME?

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK ME! OF COURSE I'LL MARRY YOU, BRUCE!

SO WE SET THE DATE! MEANWHILE, I FELT THAT OUR ENGAGEMENT GAVE ME THE RIGHT TO LIMIT BRUCE'S OUTSIDE INTERESTS...

BRUCE, PLEASE STOP OGLING!

HONEY, I'M MERELY LOOKING! YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT THAT REDHEAD *IS* WORTH LOOKING AT!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO CARRY ON LIKE THAT, I'D RATHER YOU'D TAKE ME HOME!

I WAS JOKING, MIRIAM! I'VE GOT THE BLINDERS ON FOR THE REST OF THE EVENING, SWEETHEART!

AS TIME WENT BY, I GREW MORE AND MORE *POSSESSIVE*, THOUGH I WOULD NEVER HAVE APPLIED THAT TERM TO MY ACTIONS!

SEVEN-THIRTY, AND HE PROMISED TO BE HERE BY SEVEN! HE'LL HAVE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO FOR THIS!

WHEN HE FINALLY DID ARRIVE A HALF-HOUR LATER, I WAS IN NO MOOD TO RETURN HIS WARM GREETING...

I'VE HAD DINNER WAITING FOR AN HOUR! WHOM WERE YOU WITH?

JUST A FEW OF THE MEN AT THE OFFICE AND SOME OUT-OF-TOWN BUSINESS PROSPECTS! I COULDN'T LEAVE THE GROUP TO CALL, WHILE WE HAD A CHANCE OF LINING UP A DEAL!

DO YOU THINK ME A FOOL? YOU CAN'T EAT BECAUSE YOU'VE ALREADY *HAD* DINNER... WITH THAT SECRETARY OF YOURS!

SO NOW YOU'RE JEALOUS OF MISS PETERS! THIS IS GETTING TOO MUCH FOR ME! I'D BETTER GO!

I SUPPOSED TO BE TAKEN IN BY THAT OLD APOLOGY! I BROUGHT DINNER IN AND SAT AT THE TABLE IN SILENCE ...

I'M NOT USED TO THIS, MIRIAM! HOW CAN I EAT WITH YOU SITTING THERE, NOT TALKING, NOT LOOKING AT ME?

GOOD NIGHT, MIRIAM! I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW!

BRUCE... I'M SORRY!

THAT'S ALL I HAD TO SAY, AND HE CAME INTO MY ARMS! I FELT A SENSE OF POWER OVER BRUCE! I WAS SURE I COULD MELT HIM WITH A SMILE, MAKE HIM DO ANYTHING I WANTED WITH A FEW SOFT WORDS...

YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO TRUST ME, MY LOVE! THERE'S NO ONE BUT *YOU*, DARLING! THERE NEVER WILL BE!

I *DO* TRUST YOU! IT'S JUST THAT I GET AFRAID SOMETIME, AFRAID OF LOSING YOU!

BUT IT HAPPENED AGAIN A FEW WEEKS LATER...

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, DARLING, BUT THIS IS REAL IMPORTANT! WE'RE IRONING OUT CONTRACTS NOW! WE WON'T BE THROUGH TILL ELEVEN AT THE EARLIEST! I'LL PICK YOU UP AT SEVEN TOMORROW NIGHT!

ALL RIGHT, BRUCE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Reducing Specialist Says:

LOSE WEIGHT Where It Shows Most

REDUCE MOST ANY PART OF THE BODY WITH

Connie Simmons, New York City, N. Y. says "I went from size 16 dress to a size 12 with the use of the Spot Reducer. I am glad I used it."

Spot Reducer

Relaxing • Soothing Penetrating Massage

Like a magic wand, the "Spot Reducer" obeys your every wish. Most any part of your body where it is loose and flabby, wherever you have extra weight and inches, the "Spot Reducer" can aid you in acquiring a youthful, slender and graceful figure. The beauty of this scientifically designed Reducer is that the method is so simple and easy, the results quick, sure and harmless. No exercises or strict diets. No steambaths, drugs or laxatives.

Thousands have lost weight this way—in hips, abdomen, legs, arms, etc. The same method used by many stage, screen and radio personalities and leading reducing salons. The "Spot Reducer" can be used in your spare time, in the privacy of your own room. It is Underwriters Laboratory Approved! Two weeks after using the "Spot Reducer," look in the mirror and see a more glamorous, better, firmer, slimmer figure that will delight you. You have nothing to lose but weight for the "Spot Reducer" is sold on a

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

TAKE OFF UGLY FAT!

Don't Stay FAT—You Can LOSE POUNDS and INCHES SAFELY without risking HEALTH

Take pounds off—keep slim and trim with Spot Reducer! Remarkable new invention which uses one of the most effective reducing methods employed by masseurs and turkish baths— MASSAGE!

ONLY $2.98 with DeLuxe Model

If the "Spot Reducer" doesn't do the wonders for you as it has for others, if you don't lose weight and inches where you want to lose it most, if you're not 100% delighted with the results, your money will be returned at once.

Marie Hammel, New York, N. Y., says "I used to wear a size 16 dress, now I wear size 14, thanks to the Spot Reducer. It was fun and I enjoyed it."

FREE A large size jar of Special Formula Body Massage Cream will be included FREE with your order for the "Spot Reducer."

MAIL COUPON NOW!

Body Managers, Dept. A-493
403 Market St., Newark, New Jersey.

Send me at once, for $2.98 cash, check or money order, the DeLuxe Model "Spot Reducer" and your famous Special Formula Body Massage Cream, postpaid. If I am not 100% satisfied, my money will be refunded.
☐ I enclose $2.98. Send Amazing DeLuxe Model.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ALSO USE IT FOR ACHES AND PAINS

CAN'T SLEEP! Relax with Spot Reducer. See how soothing its gentle massage can be. Helps you sleep when massage can be of benefit.

MUSCULAR ACHES! A handy helper for transient relief of discomforts that can be aided by gentle, relaxing massage.

TRY THE SPOT REDUCER 10 DAYS FREE IN YOUR OWN HOME!

"Thanks to the Spot Reducer I lost four inches around the hips and three inches around the waistline. It's amazing." Mary Martin, Long Island City, N. Y.

Famous Orchestra Leader

LAWRENCE WELK

Television Star of "The Lawrence Welk Show"

[MONDAY AND SATURDAY EVENINGS—ABC-TV]

Says "I Got My Start in Music this 'TEACH-YOURSELF' Way"

You, Too, Can Play Your Favorite Instrument — Even If You Don't Know a Single Note of Music Now!

WHY are you cheating yourself of the thrills of playing music? You can't afford private lessons? It would take "too long" to learn?

Over 900,000 people have found a simple answer. One of them was Lawrence Welk. Early in life he showed a love of music, and was rewarded with a modern accordion. He enrolled in the home study Course of the U. S. School and was soon playing by note. Thus he started on the road to the present triumph of his "Champagne Music" on ABC-TV.

What Music Can Do for You

You may simply want to play for the sheer joy of it. The fun of entertaining friends at parties.

Regardless of what YOU want out of music, here's the easy way to get it! In just a few weeks, you can be playing REAL MUSIC on your favorite instrument. Not by any "trick" method. But actually reading and playing real sheet music—so confidently your friends will be amazed!

Enjoy All These Advantages

No boring scales and exercises. Lessons consist of songs, hymns, waltzes, etc., with simple how-to-do-it directions and large clear pictures. Learn in your own home, in spare time. None of the inconvenience of having a private teacher—and costs only about a TENTH as much. Everything is so clear even youngsters "catch on" right away. Whole family can learn for price of one.

Mail Coupon for FREE BOOK

Let us SHOW you why our way to learn music is so EASY — so much fun! Mail the coupon for our valuable 36-page FREE BOOK. No obligation. No salesman will call on you. Mail coupon TODAY!

U. S. SCHOOL OF MUSIC, STUDIO A1479, Port Washington, N.Y.

Reduced prices on instruments to our students.

I got my start in music with a U.S. School Course. How easy it is to learn to read notes and play music this "teach yourself" way! In fact, this school did so much for me that I enrolled my two daughters.

Lawrence Welk

900 000 STUDENTS so far

U. S. SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Studio A1479, Port Washington, N. Y.

I am interested in learning to play, particularly the instrument checked below. Please send me your free illustrated booklet, "How to Learn Music at Home." NO SALESMAN IS TO CALL UPON ME.

☐ Piano	☐ Pipe, Hammond, Reed Organ	☐ Piccolo
☐ Guitar	☐ Tenor Banjo	☐ Modern Elementary Harmony
☐ Steel Guitar	☐ Ukelele	☐ Mandolin
☐ Violin	☐ Clarinet	☐ Practical Finger Control
☐ Piano Accordion	☐ Trombone	
☐ Saxophone	☐ Flute	
☐ Trumpet, Cornet		

Do you have the Instrument?_____

Mr / Mrs / Miss _____
(Please Print Carefully)

Address _____

City _____ State _____

☐ CHECK HERE for Booklet A if you are under 16 years.

I WAS CONSUMED BY A FIT OF JEALOUS RAGE! I LEFT THE HOUSE AT ONCE AND TAXIED TO BRUCE'S OFFICE...

WELL, WELL, QUITE A LOVELY "BUSINESS MEETING"! DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D BE FOOL ENOUGH TO BELIEVE YOU AGAIN?

I STORMED INTO THAT OFFICE... AND THEN CAME TO A DEAD STOP! BRUCE LOOKED AT ME WITH LEADEN EYES, AND HIS VOICE WAS LOW AND OMINOUS...

B-BRUCE... I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

YOU'VE SAID QUITE ENOUGH ALREADY, MIRIAM! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!

I SPENT A MISERABLE TWO HOURS THINKING OF SOME WAY TO SMOOTH OVER THE STORM I KNEW WAS COMING! THEN BRUCE ARRIVED, AND HE SPOKE ALMOST WITHOUT EMOTION...

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW EMBARRASSED I WAS! I TOLD THEM YOU WERE MY FIANCEE, MIRIAM... I THINK THEY UNDERSTOOD!

DARLING, IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, EVER!

I THOUGHT, IF HE WOULD ONLY GET ANGRY! BUT HE WAS CALM AND COLD, AND I WAS FRIGHTENED...

NO, IT WON'T HAPPEN, AGAIN! I'VE BEEN SMOTHERED! I'VE FELT AS IF I WERE HELD IN THE TENTACLES OF AN OCTOPUS! BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR ME TO BE FREE!

YOU DON'T MEAN THAT, BRUCE! YOU'RE JUST UPSET BECAUSE OF WHAT I DID TONIGHT!

IT ALL ADDS UP TO THIS.. I DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH LIFE MARRIED TO A POSSESSIVE, JEALOUS WOMAN! YOU DON'T TRUST ME *NOW!* I SHUDDER TO THINK OF HOW IT WOULD BE *LATER!* GOOD-BYE, MIRIAM! GOOD LUCK!

OH, BRUCE... I... (CHOKE!) I LOVE YOU SO!

EVERYTHING COMES HIGH THESE DAYS, BUT THE PRICE I PAID FOR THAT BITTER LESSON WAS A BROKEN HEART! AND IF I HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE SOMEDAY, ANOTHER LOVE WHO'LL MARRY ME, I'LL HONOR HIM, AND SHARE LIFE WITH HIM! YES, ABOVE ALL, I'LL *TRUST* THE MAN I LOVE!

The End

MY SISTER BETTY AND I WERE AS DIFFERENT AS NIGHT AND DAY! SHE WAS GAY, LIVELY AND SOUGHT AFTER! I WAS QUIET, AND I SUPPOSE, SHY! THERE WAS, HOWEVER, ONE THING ON WHICH WE WERE IN PERFECT ACCORD. WE BOTH LIKED THE SAME BOY!

A Kiss For Sis

NOEL IS LIKE BETTY... FULL OF LIFE AND ZEST! THEY'RE BOTH EXTROVERTS... NOT AFRAID TO LET THEMSELVES GO! NEVER A SERIOUS THOUGHT IN THEIR HEADS!

THE ONLY REASON I WAS INVITED TO PARTIES WAS THAT BETTY WOULDN'T GO WITHOUT ME! ONLY THE PRESENCE OF NOEL HUNT AT THOSE PARTIES MADE THEM BEARABLE FOR ME!

0-35

SAY, YOU AREN'T QUITTING ON ME ALREADY, DYNAMITE?

BUT, NOEL... I'M EXHAUSTED! IT'LL TAKE ME PRACTICALLY FOREVER TO RECOVER! AT LEAST TWO MINUTES, ANYWAY!

OH, THAT NOEL... HE'S JUST PLAIN GONE, LOIS! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A BETTER DANCER?

I DIDN'T NOTICE, SIS!

HONEY, YOU'VE GOT TO START LIVING! COME ON, I'LL GET NOEL TO DANCE WITH YOU! YOU'LL LOVE HIM!

NO, BETTY, PLEASE! I JUST DON'T CARE FOR THAT SORT OF THING!

BETTY JUST SHRUGGED AND WENT BACK TO HER DANCING. SHE WAS NEARLY TWENTY AND I WAS EIGHTEEN, BUT I'M SURE THAT PEOPLE WERE BEGINNING TO REGARD ME AS HER "OLD MAID" SISTER..

SHE SAID "YOU'LL LOVE HIM"! SHE WAS WRONG! I LIKE HIS LOOKS AND PERSONALITY! BUT WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON!

TV

I KNEW WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME! I WAS PAINFULLY SHY! BUT SHY OR NOT, I SIMPLY DIDN'T CARE FOR BETTY'S CROWD AND THEIR NOISY PARTIES! I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO GO TO THE NEXT ONE..

YOU BETTER START DRESSING, LOIS OR YOU WON'T BE READY WHEN NOEL GETS HERE!

PLEASE, SIS, I'D MUCH RATHER NOT GO TONIGHT! I'M TIRED!

MY CAMPAIGN TO GET MY FLOWER OF A SISTER OFF THE WALL IS SUFFERING AN AWFUL SETBACK! BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP! NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT YOU GO!

YES, NEXT SATURDAY, BETTY. I PROMISE!

I WAS GLAD TO STAY HOME THAT EVENING! I FELT FREE! BUT I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS SO DIFFICULT FOR ME TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BOOK I WAS READING

BETTY OUGHT TO BE COMING HOME ANY MINUTE! I GUESS NOEL WAS A LOT HAPPIER NOT HAVING TO TAKE *ME* ALONG TONIGHT!

THEY DID ARRIVE SOON, AND I REALIZED I HAD BEEN IN THE WAY ON OTHER OCCASIONS! I WOULD NEVER ADMIT TO MYSELF THAT I WAS JEALOUS, THAT DEEP INSIDE I REALLY CARED FOR NOEL HUNT

GOOD NIGHT BEAUTIFUL!

I KEPT MY PROMISE TO GO WITH SIS THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY NIGHT! I WASN'T SORRY I WENT BECAUSE NOEL CAME OVER TO TALK TO ME! DID BETTY SEND HIM OVER, I WONDERED?

LOIS, I'VE *HAD* IT! MIND IF I JOIN YOU? I'D JUST LIKE TO SIT AND TALK!

SHALL WE TALK ABOUT THE LATEST BOP MUSIC! I HOPE NOT! I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT POPULAR HITS!

NOW DON'T BELITTLE BOP MUSIC! IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF THE TIMES, JUST AS MUCH AS ANYTHING BACH OR BEETHOVEN OR DEBUSSY WROTE!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE A SNOB, NOEL! I PREFER THE CLASSICS, THAT'S ALL!

I WAS AMAZED TO FIND THAT HE HAD A SERIOUS SIDE AT ALL! NOEL WAS INFORMED ON SO MANY SUBJECTS THAT I WAS DAZZLED! WE JUST RAMBLED ON AND ON ABOUT ART AND LITERATURE...

HEY YOU TWO... BREAK IT UP! AN HOUR'S GABFEST IS TOO MUCH FOR ANY PARTY!

IT'S A DATE, THEN, RIGHT? I'LL PICK YOU UP SUNDAY!

I BOBBED MY HEAD BEFORE REALIZING THAT I WAS GUILTY OF DATING MY SISTER'S BEAU! BETTY APPROVED HEARTILY WHEN I TOLD HER ABOUT IT, BUT I SEEMED TO SENSE SHE WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT IT! WHEN NOEL CAME FOR ME, HOWEVER, I FORGOT BETTY...

WELL, MUSEUM FIRST, OR ART GALLERY?

WHICHEVER IS NEAREST, NOEL!

MY AMAZEMENT AT HIS INTELLECT AND FUND OF KNOWLEDGE CONTINUED TO GROW...

WHEN YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE PEOPLE, THEY DON'T SEEM TO BELONG QUITE SO FAR IN THE PAST! THEIR SURGERY, FOR INSTANCE, MAY HAVE BEEN CRUDE BY MODERN STANDARDS, BUT THEY *DID* PERFORM MAJOR OPERATIONS!

LONG BEFORE THAT SUNDAY AFTERNOON WAS OVER, ALL THE LOVE I FELT FOR NOEL WELLED OUT OF MY SUBCONSCIOUS! THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE... RESPECT...

IF I'M BORING YOU RAVING ABOUT CEZANNE'S TECHNIQUE, DON'T BE AFRAID TO SAY SO!

OH, NO! I'M HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME, NOEL!

LATER, WHILE WE WERE HAVING SUPPER AT A QUIET, SUBURBAN INN, I THOUGHT ABOUT BETTY AGAIN...

NOEL, LAST WEEK WHEN YOU BROUGHT BETTY HOME FROM THE PARTY, I SAW YOU KISS HER GOOD NIGHT! YOU'RE REALLY VERY FOND OF HER, AREN'T YOU?

BETTY? OH, I'M CRAZY ABOUT THE GIRL! SHE'S WONDERFUL!

THEN, WHY...?

WHY HAVE I SUDDENLY **STOPPED** DATING BETTY AND TAKEN HER SISTER OUT INSTEAD? BECAUSE BETTY AND I ARE AS FAR APART AS THE POLES! BETTY IS WONDERFUL COMPANY... AS LONG AS YOU CAN STAND THE LOUD, BRASSY TYPE!

DON'T SAY THAT, NOEL! BETTY THINKS THE WORLD OF YOU!

I DIDN'T MEAN THAT IN A CHEAP SENSE AT ALL! I TOLD YOU I'M CRAZY ABOUT HER! SHE'S MADE ME FORGET MY PROBLEMS!

BETTY ONCE SAID I WAS A "FUGITIVE FROM A MAUSOLEUM" TRYING TO LIVE IT UP BEFORE THEY CAME AND TOOK ME BACK! HER QUAINT WAY OF SAYING I'M THE QUIET, SERIOUS TYPE!

SO BETTY HAD KNOWN RIGHT ALONG THAT SHE AND NOEL WEREN'T SUITED TO ONE ANOTHER! IT WAS A BIG LOAD OFF MY HEART...

LOIS, YOU'RE SEEING THE **REAL** ME TODAY! I'M TIRED OF TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM MYSELF! I WANT A NICE, QUIET, SERIOUS GIRL TO SHARE THINGS WITH! THE KIND OF THINGS WE DID AND TALKED ABOUT TODAY!

WAS HE TRYING TO TELL ME THAT I WAS HIS KIND OF GIRL? I FELT THAT WAS HIS MEANING, THAT HE WASN'T RUSHING ME OFF MY FEET! HE WAS TRYING TO BE... QUIET AND SERIOUS...

GOOD NIGHT, LOIS! IT'S BEEN THE MOST ENJOYABLE DAY I'VE EVER HAD! I'D LIKE TO DO IT AGAIN NEXT SUNDAY...

I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO IT, NOEL!

WHO KNOWS.. MAYBE SOMEDAY, HE'LL GET AROUND TO TALK OF LOVE AND MARRIAGE!

The End

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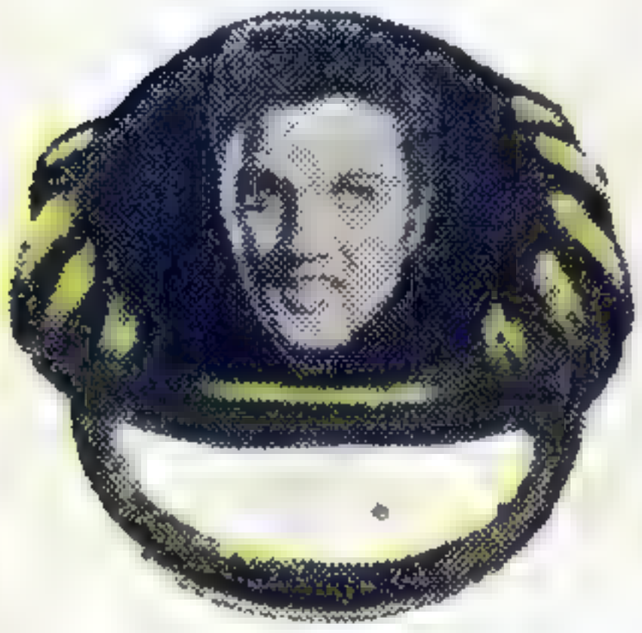

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rise until they had released themselves to the emptiness left inside . . .

Marion shielded her eyes to look once more acros the bay. Then she stiffened! Roger's boat was skimming across the sparkling water straight to the wharf. After her sleepless night and the long vigil, the sudden sight of his boat made her breathless with surprise.

"He's coming back to me," she told herself.

The hope was short-lived!

In another moment she could see the woman beside Roger, her long blonde hair tied in a soft blue scarf. Hidden from view, and without moving, Marion watched the familiar boat skillfully guided to dock. As the woman climbed out, Marion heard her resonant laughter. She was slim, tall, and beautiful. Still smiling, she turned to Roger who was reaching down in the boat. For one further moment Marion stared, as Roger placed a baby in the woman's extended arms, then letting out a sobbing cry, she ran.

"It was true!" The words hammered in her brain.

She shuddered, still too shocked to believe that Roger could be so cruel. Yet what else could she believe . . . faced with this irrefutable evidence. No matter what her heart desired, or what promises Roger made, they couldn't ever come true. But within her aching bitterness, she knew she still loved him.

Once more she sought out the cove that had brought her so much contentment and happiness in the past. The tears rushed freely at the bitter-sweet remembrances. How long she lay huddled against the hard sand she didn't know . . . the pain seemed without an end. Then someone caught her and raised her up gently.

"Roger!" she cried out. His face close to hers made her tremble, then she remembered, and shrank back.

"What's wrong?" he asked, catching her arm. "I stopped by your house and your mother said you've been gone all afternoon."

Again she tried to get away, but his grip tightened.

"Look, I can't blame you for being angry about yesterday, but you can at least let me explain."

"There's nothing to explain," Marion snapped back, her voice choked with anger. "Mr. Peters told me everything!"

Their eyes met, and it was

all the more painful to see him assume a look of pretended astonishment.

"Then you know I went to get my family!" Roger said. "I'm terribly sorry, darling, but there just wasn't time to let you know."

He's sorry, Marion thought. As if breaking my heart is as simple as that! Perhaps he hoped I wouldn't find out!

"Don't look so unhappy," he said, trying to draw her close. "Bringing Ned and Celia here hasn't changed my feelings about you."

Marion was stunned!

"Perhaps marriage isn't important to you," she fired back. "But it's a sacred thing to me!"

"It is to me, too!" Roger replied, stiffening. "Now what's this all about? What has bringing my brother and his wife out here got to do with us?"

"Your BROTHER!" Marion gasped. "And all along, when Mr. Peters spoke of the telegram . . . we both thought it must be *your* wife!"

"My wife?" Roger gave a sudden, deep laugh. "You poor darling! No wonder you've acted so strangely. I guess your anger was pretty justified, either way."

"Well, I just didn't know what to believe," she said. "First the telegram, and then when you docked, all I saw were Celia and the baby."

"Ned was below deck the whole trip," Roger grinned. "He hasn't a sailor's constitution."

Gently, he took her face between his hands, and his kiss restored all the happiness she had thought was gone.

"I'm terribly sorry," Roger whispered. "I never should have left without coming to you and explaining. The surprise I had planned for you turned out far differently than I had anticipated. Forgive me?"

"Of course," Marion replied. "I feel terrible now for ever having doubted you."

Roger's forgiveness was given as he kissed her again. Above the quick beat of her heart, she could hear the ebb and flow of the waves against the shore, and each gentle murmur became a reassuring echo of the happiness she was feeling . . . and of the happiness she knew would come.

"Come, darling," Roger said, slipping his arm about her waist. "My family's waiting to meet you."

As they walked together across the sand, the rosy glow of sunset enveloped them and seemed to disclose the wondrous fulfillment of their lives ahead.

THE END J-907

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The Beauty of Beverly Storm

GRACE, I'VE JUST HEARD THE NEWS, MY PLAY HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO BE PRODUCED FOR GRADUATION WEEK! ISN'T IT MARVELOUS?

WONDERFUL! OF COURSE I'LL BE YOUR LEADING LADY! I AM NOW, IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE, AREN'T I, DARLING?

I WATCHED THE WAY GRACE LOOKED AT JIM AND MY HEART TURNED OVER! SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL, HOW COULD ANY MAN RESIST HER? AND JIM, WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL ADMIT IT, I WAS MADLY IN LOVE WITH HIM! HE WASN'T JUST HANDSOME, HE HAD A GREAT AND RARE TALENT IN HIS CHOSEN FIELD, THE THEATER! HE DATED ME... AND GRACE TOO, BUT I KNEW SHE HAD DECIDED THAT JIM WAS **HERS** AND I HAD TO AGREE! FOR IN THE LIGHT OF HER DAZZLING BEAUTY, I WAS CAST INTO SHADOW!

10-57

CASTING BEGINS DAY AFTER TOMORROW... OH, BEVERLY, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT MY PLAY BEING DONE GRADUATION WEEK? I HOPE **YOU'LL** TRY OUT!

OF COURSE I WILL, JIM!

THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A SMALL MAID'S ROLE YOU CAN HANDLE... WITH COACHING! WELL, I MUST RUN! BE LATE FOR CLASS! 'BYE!

I HAVE TO RUN, TOO! DON'T FORGET OUR DATE TONIGHT, BEV! WE HAVE TO CELEBRATE THIS BIG EVENT!

ALL RIGHT, JIM!

AND CELEBRATE WE DID... BUT NOT TOO LATE, BECAUSE FINAL EXAMS LOOMED CLOSELY ON THE HORIZON!

I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME, JIM! I HOPE WITH ALL MY HEART THAT YOUR PLAY IS A WONDERFUL, SMASHING SUCCESS!

I KNOW YOU DO, BEV!

BEV, I... WELL, YOU'D BETTER RUN IN NOW! IT'S GETTING LATE!

AS I TURNED TO SAY GOOD NIGHT, HE PULLED ME INTO HIS ARMS!

ALL THE NEXT DAY, I WALKED ON CLOUDS, THRILLING AGAIN TO HIS KISS! I WONDERED... WHAT HAD IT BEEN THAT HE WAS GOING TO SAY AND DIDN'T?

WELL, YOU SEEM TO BE IN THE BEST OF SPIRITS! WHAT'S HAPPENED? DID A MILLIONAIRE UNCLE DIE AND LEAVE YOU HIS FORTUNE?

NOPE! SOMETHING *MUCH MORE* WONDERFUL!

OH, GRACE, WHEN ARE THE TRYOUTS FOR CASTING JIM'S PLAY?

WHY, ER... TOMORROW AT FIVE!

THAT NIGHT I WAS ALL AGLOW! I COULDN'T SLEEP! I WAS SITTING IN THE DARK AT MY WINDOW... THAT'S WHEN I SAW THEM, GRACE AND JIM...

THAT'S WHAT HE WAS PROBABLY TRYING TO TELL ME LAST NIGHT... THAT HE SHOULDN'T HAVE KISSED ME BECAUSE HE WAS IN LOVE WITH GRACE! WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN, TO THINK THAT I COULD COMPETE AGAINST BEAUTY!

THE NEXT DAY AT FIVE O'CLOCK I WENT TO READ FOR THE CASTING TRYOUTS!

BEV, MR. JUSTIN AND I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE COMING! ALL THE FEMININE ROLES HAVE BEEN CAST! TRYOUTS BEGAN AT TWO-THIRTY!

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU, BEV... OR DIDN'T I MENTION THE CORRECT TIME? ANYWAY I HAVE THE LEAD, OF COURSE!

I KNEW SHE HAD DONE IT DELIBERATELY! I WAS FURIOUS!

LET'S HEAR YOU READ THE ROLE OF ELVIRA! IT'S QUITE A DIFFICULT, THOUGH MINOR PART!

ALL RIGHT!

I READ, WHILE ANGER, SELF-PITY AND OVERWHELMING LOVE ROSE UP WITHIN ME!

...AND SO, GOOD-BYE!

WONDERFUL!

YOU *ARE* ELVIRA, BEV! THAT WAS TERRIFIC! WELL, THAT FINISHES OUR CASTING!

WE REHEARSED EVERY SPARE MOMENT! JIM SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME WITH GRACE, COACHING HER! I COULD HAVE CRIED WHEN I SAW THEM CLOSE SO MUCH...

YOU'RE GETTING JUST THE RIGHT FEEL NOW, GRACE! TAKE IT FROM, "I THOUGHT I SAW YOU DOWN BY THE LAKE..."

IT'S A WONDERFUL PLAY, JIM! ONLY A WONDERFUL MAN COULD HAVE WRITTEN IT!

FINALLY GRADUATION WEEK CAME AND WITH IT THE NIGHT OF THE PLAY, "THE DAY OF THE ORIOLE"! WE WERE TENSE AND NERVOUS AS THE CURTAIN WENT UP...

YOU'VE A SPLENDID ROLE, BEVERLY... MAKE THE MOST OF IT! I'M SURE YOU' WILL!

I'M SO NERVOUS!

THE PLAY PROCEEDED! THE THIRD AND LAST ACT WAS DRAWING TO ITS CLIMAX! I WATCHED GRACE, GLOWING, BEAUTIFUL, AND I THOUGHT, "HOW CAN THE AUDIENCE, HOW CAN JIM SEE ME, OR ANYONE ELSE BUT GRACE"?

...AND SO, GOOD-BYE!

YOU WERE *ALL* WONDERFUL! ABSOLUTELY MARVELOUS!

BEVERLY, THERE WAS AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE IN THE AUDIENCE! WE WENT TO DRAMATIC SCHOOL TOGETHER! HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU! BEVERLY STORM... JAY CARTER!

NOT JAY CARTER, THE BROADWAY PRODUCER?

THE SAME! MISS STORM, YOU WERE SUPERB TONIGHT, YOU HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A GREAT ACTRESS! I'M PRODUCING A NEW PLAY IN THE FALL AND I'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU IN IT! I'LL HAVE A CONTRACT DRAWN!

JIM...JAY CARTER SAW THE PLAY! HE OFFERED ME A CONTRACT..

DON'T ACCEPT!

NOT ACCEPT? BUT... WHY, JIM?

BECAUSE I *DON'T* WANT MY *WIFE* IN TH LIMELIGHT! I WANT HER TO BASK IN MY REFLECTED GLORY AND I WANT HER ALL TO MYSELF!

BUT... I THOUGHT IT WAS GRACE! I SAW YOU KISSING HER... YOU SPENT SO MUCH TIME WITH HER DURING REHEARSALS...

I *HAD* TO, TO MAKE HER DO HER ROLE CORRECTLY! I WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT *YOU!* AND, YOU *DIDN'T* SEE ME KISSING HER... YOU SAW *HER* KISSING *ME!* IT'S ALWAYS BEEN *YOU*, NOT GRACE!

BUT GRACE IS SO BEAUTIFUL...

NOT WITH *YOUR* KIND OF BEAUTY! A BEAUTY *SHE* CAN *NEVER* HAVE, BECAUSE IT COMES FROM WITHIN!

NO, MISS FLEMING, I CAN'T USE YOU! BEAUTIFUL BLONDS ARE A DIME A DOZEN! NOW THAT STORM GIRL... *SHE* HAS A RARE QUALITY OF INNER BEAUTY THAT SHE PROJECTS OVER THE FOOTLIGHTS!

MISS STORM, I... CH, I SEE! WELL, MR. MARSDEN, I LIKE YOUR PLAY! I WANT TO TAKE AN OPTION ON IT! AS FOR *YOU*, MISS STORM, I GUESS YOU SIGNED TO PLAY *ANOTHER* ROLE, FOR LIFE! HEY, ISN'T ANYBODY LISTENING TO ME?

The End

NOW: 7 BRAND NEW EXCLUSIVE FEATURES TAKES INCHES OFF YOUR WAISTLINE INSTANTLY. PROVIDE VITAL BACK SUPPORT!

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- front closing
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If I should Die before I Wake,
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The Way Of The CROSS HOME
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